

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 210705Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 794
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T MUSCAT 089

EXDIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, MASS, MU, US
SUBJECT: TOW PROGRAM: TRAINING BEGINS

REF: MUSCAT 060

1. MTT (CAPT. MERIDITH AND MSGT BATTLE) CALLED ON AMBASSADOR JAN. 20. THEY REPORTED THAT TRAINING BEGAN ON SCHEDULE THAT DATE. HOWEVER, CONTRARY TO OUR PREVIOUS UNDERSTANDING (REFTEL), CADRE OF FOUR SAF TROOPS BEING TRAINED DO NOT HAVE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE CAPABILITIES. INTERPRETING IS BEING DONE BY JORDANIAN OFFICER; MTT WILL GO SLOW AND USE GOODLY AMOUNT OF DEMONSTRATION AND REPETITION TO GET PROGRAM ACROSS, BUT THEY HAVE MISGIVINGS RE HOW INSTRUCTION MIGHT FILTER DOWN TO SUBSEQUENT GENERATIONS OF OPERATORS.

2. UP UNTIL DAY TRAINING STARTED, MTT HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT BRITISH MASTER SERGEANT POSSESSING FLUENT ARABIC WOULD ACT AS INTERFACE WITH SAF TEAM. AT LAST MOMENT, THAT PERSON PULLED OFF MISSION, HAVING STATED THAT THERE WAS "AGREEMENT" BETWEEN HMG AND USG THAT NO BRITISH WOULD BE INVOLVED. (COMMENT: WE KNOW NOTHING OF THIS AND ASSUME IT IS MISINFORMATION.)

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3. MTT PLANS TO GO AHEAD WITH TRAINING UNDER PRESENT

CONDITIONS (I.E. THROUGH JORDANIAN INTERMEDIARY).
THEY (MTT) HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THEY MIGHT BE
ASKED TO GO TO DHOFAR TO OBSERVE INITIAL TRAINING
CYCLE RUN BY SAF. (COMMENT: THIS, TOO, IS AT VARIANCE
WITH CSAF'S PREVIOUS STATEMENT THAT ALL TRAINING
WOULD TAKE PLACE IN THE NORTH. EMBASSY HAS NO PARTICULAR
OBJECTION TO MTT GOING TO DHOFAR, ALTHOUGH IT WOULD BE
UNFORTUNATE IF WORD GOT AROUND THAT U.S. MILITARY
INSTRUCTORS WERE PRESENT THERE.)

WOLLE

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Message Attributes

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